

**Slight Increase in Cost of Labor
Does Not Warrant Present
Price of Paper.**

CONVINCING TESTIMONY
BEFORE HOUSE COMMITTEE

Even Under Existing Exhorbitant Prices, Labor Used by Trust Is Ill Paid

WASHINGTON, May 2.—According to figures submitted today by John

Norris, representing the American Newspaper Publishers' association, to the select committee of the House of wood pulp and print paper, investigation regarding the increased labor cost per ton of newsprint. The increase amounted to but 55 cents. In spite of statements of the paper men to the contrary, he said, his calculation was that the increase was 100 cents. He charged that the paper men had been "padding" the price of \$12 a ton, alleging that the increase was due to the higher cost of labor. In the case of the Hudson river newsprint, Mr. Norris stated, data showed that even though the men were "padding" from a two-three-ton basis, "the cost of production of paper actually had been reduced \$1.13 per ton. It was, he said, the important thing he had presented to your knowledge.

Advance Not Justified.

Mr. Norris continued some time to discuss the change of base from a two-four, or two-shift basis, to a three-four, or three-shift basis, contending that the increase in price was insufficient to justify the advance in prices.

Mr. Norris, replying to questions by Mr. Mann, gave evidence showing that the cost of production of newsprint in the State of New York for the

third quarter of 1906, was \$10.94 per week, which he said was very low. He would not enter into a discussion with Mr. Norris as to the propriety, or advisability that it appeared to be about the time wages should be increased.

Wages Certainly Low.

Answering Messrs. Ryan and Bannon the witness said that his wage calculations had reference to union helpers employed in the paper mills, as well as of women and children. In the State of Massachusetts, he said, the average weekly wage for 1906 was \$9.20 and that this figure took into account the employment of women and children, including those under 21 years of age.

In further refutation of the claim of the paper manufacturers regarding the high cost of labor, Mr. Norris read from the report of the Bureau of Labor, since it appeared there was a decrease in the wage of paper workers in 1906, as compared with 1905, and that paper making was the only industry that had increased its wages.

Slight Increase in Pay.

As showing the slight increase that had taken place in the wage of paper makers, Mr. Norris offered statistics for the year 1901, which fixed the paper production at 3,782,211 tons, at an average weekly wage of \$4.45. In 1905, he said, the 65,964 paper workers in the United States received an average wage of \$9.32 per week.

Some people say that the "wages paid to the workers of the United States," remarked Mr. Ryan, one of the Democratic members of the committee, but Mr. Norris would not permit him to be taken into it and he left that question.

Further disputing the claims of the paper makers as to the wages paid, Mr. Norris presented in evidence official statistics of the cost of printing and binding work, which he said was receiving 78 per cent more wages than were being paid to the paper workers. At this juncture adjournment was taken until Monday morning.

SENATE PASSES DIPLOMATIC BILL AND SOON ADJOURNS

WASHINGTON, May 2.—The policy sought to be established by the government of providing and equipping buildings for its Embassadors in European capitals received a setback today.

The Senate, which was in session until 10:30 p. m., adjourned. Through a point of order by Mr. Culberson (Tex.) an amendment to the House bill, appropriating \$400,000 for such a building at Paris, was stricken out. Mr. Culberson's objection was based mainly on the fact that the subject had not been properly considered. The amendment was placed in the bill by the committee on appropriations at the suggestion of Mr. Culberson, then chief of relations and the Secretary of State, and was the object of considerable discussion. A number of Senators rejected the opinion that such a policy should be taken, and the committee was not only competing with the dignity of the office of American Ambassador, but also as creating a fixed habitation for such representatives, where a practically uniform standard of living might be established.

The bill was passed, following which the bill on the life, character and public services of the late Senators Mallory and Bryan of Florida was taken up. The further mark of respect, the Senate at 4:22 p. m. adjourned until Monday.

HOUSE STILL WRESTLES WITH SUNDRY CIVIL BILL

WASHINGTON, May 2.—(Passage by paragraph, under suspension of the rules, of the sundry civil appropriation bill was continued in the House today. The bill, which appropriates for geological survey was postponed by agreement until Monday, until which time the further consideration of the bill was postponed.)

The House, after a spirited and some-

LAKELWOOD, N. J., May 28.—The former President Grover Cleveland is not so seriously ill as published reports during the past week have declared him to be, was the assurance given a representative of the Associated Press tonight.

The informants, who are in a position to speak authoritatively, stated that if the contrary were true, it would be a perfect waste of time attempting to deal with their business duties elsewhere, would be with Mr. Cleveland. The closest friends of the former President, it was said, have not been with him at any time during his stay here. It was added that Mr. Cleveland rose from his bed last Thursday and has since sat up during each day.

Receives No Calls.

For the present Mr. Cleveland will remain in seclusion and deny himself to all callers. This intention, it was explained, is in furtherance of a prearranged plan to give the distinguished ex-President a quiet and undisturbed usual Southern trip. A sudden attack of acute indigestion was experienced during the present week, but Mrs. Cleveland, who is quite well, in her statement today, insists that her husband is rapidly convalescing and that his condition is no more serious now than it was when his illness originated last week.

The following statement from Mrs. Grover Cleveland was given out here today:

"All the reports printed in the last few days to the effect that changes for the worse had taken place in Mr. Cleveland's condition are absolutely untrue. His condition is such that he is slowly but surely recovering from the last attack of digestive troubles."

progress toward recovery. His friend and family are at a loss to understand how such rumors have originated.¹²

OPERATE ON W. A. CLARK.
Special to The Tribune.
LOS ANGELES, May 2.—
When former Senator W. A. Clark arrived here today from Los Angeles, he immediately was taken to the Pacific hospital, where he underwent an operation for a growth on the left side of his neck. The operation, which was successfully performed by Drs. E. A. Bryant and Edward Dillon. It was stated by the physicians that Mr. Clark will not be able to leave the hospital for a week or ten days.

Mr. Clark was met at the depot by his wife and two children. They accompanied him to the hospital, where they engaged private rooms, and will remain there until he recovers.

W. A. Clark, Jr. and J. Ross Clark went to the hospital to see him after the operation.

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As showing the slight increase that had taken place in the wage of papermakers, Mr. Norris offered statistics for the year 1901, which fixed the paper production in the United States at 1,000,000 tons. The average labor cost of \$7.45 per week. In 1905, he said, the 65,964 paper workers in the United States received an average wage of \$9.32 per week. "The protection increases the wages of working people of the United States," remarked Mr. Ryan, one of the Democratic members of the committee. "It would not permit himself to be drawn into

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SENATE PASSES DIPLOMATIC BILL AND SOON ADJOURNS

WASHINGTON, May 2.—The policy sought to be established by the government of providing and equipping buildings for the use of members in Europe last night received a setback today in the Senate, where the diplomatic bill was under consideration. Through a point of order by Mr. Culberson (Tex.), an amendment to the House bill, appropriating \$400,000 for such a building at Paris, was stricken out. Mr. Culberson based his objection mainly on the fact that the bill had not been properly considered. The amendment was placed in the bill by the committee on appropriations at the so-

and was the object of considerable discussion. A number of Senators voiced the opinion that such a policy had been inaugurated at this time as

not only comporting with the dignity of the office of American Senator, but also with the habituation of such representatives, where a practically uniform standard of living might be maintained.

The bill was passed, following which a resolution on the life, character and public services of the late Senators Mallory and Bryan of Florida were delivered, and, as a further mark of respect, adjourned at 4:22 p. m. adjourned until Monday.

HOUSE SENATE WRESTLES WITH SUNDRY CIVIL BILL

WASHINGTON, May 2.—Passage by paragraph, under suspension of the rules, of the sundry civil appropriation bill was continued in the House today. Consideration of the paragraph making appropriation for the geological survey was postponed by agreement until Monday, until which time the further consideration of the bill was postponed.

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